

THE EARTH IS FLAT - I FLEW AROUND AND SAW IT
Земля пласка - я облетів навколо й бачив

A FILM BY MAKSYM NAKONECHNYI

Maksym Nakonechnyi

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Festival de Cannes, La Résidence

Since 2000, La Résidence du Festival de Cannes has provided each year accommodation and support to 12 selected young directors in order to help them prepare their first or second feature film. These young filmmakers are selected on the basis of their short films, or even first feature film, and the merits of their feature film project.

During their 4-and-a-half-month stay in Paris, they work on the writing of their feature film project, have meetings with professionals and try, with the support of the Festival de Cannes, to bring their project to co-production status.

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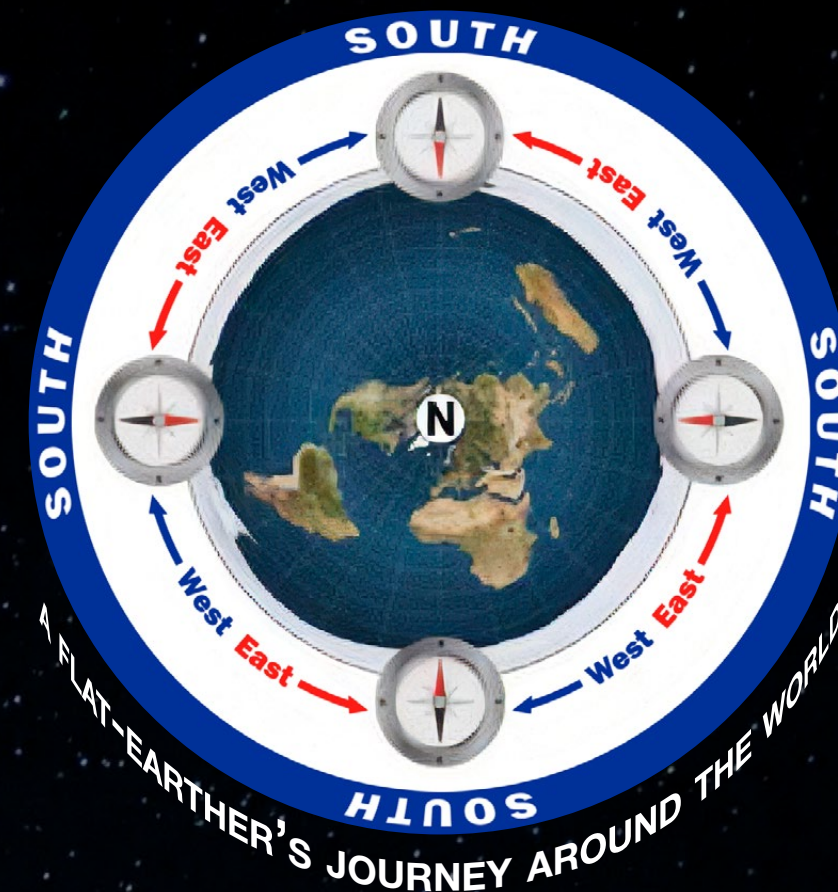
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Technical Information

Title: The Earth is flat - I flew around and saw it
Screenplay: Maksym Nakonechnyi, Artem Chapeye
Format: 1,85 Flat
Genre: Tragicomedy
Duration: 105 min

Production Company: Tabor, Ukraine
Co-Production : Oma Inge film, Germany

Director's Information

Maksym Nakonechnyi holds a bachelor's degree in directing from Karpenko-Kary Kyiv National University of Theater, Cinema and Television. After working on several TV projects, he teamed up with a group of fellow creators to form the independent production company Tabor, which now creates documentaries, fiction films, plays, commercial and social videos, and cultural volunteering projects.

Maksym has completed several fiction shorts as a director and regularly produces documentary films. His most prominent awards include the 2020 IDFA award for Best First Appearance for *This Rain Will Never Stop* and the 67th Berlinale's Generation 14plus Grand Prix for *School #3*.

Maksym's feature film directorial debut *Butterfly Vision* was selected by the Un Certain Regard section in Cannes in 2022.

Synopsis

Mykola, a flat-earther and a wannabe YouTuber who believes himself to be a truth seeker, leaves Ukraine after a personal crisis with his two best friends: Misha and his girlfriend Angela, whom Mykola actually loves. When a doubly failed experiment in Poland and work in a Berlin gay club reveal Misha's hidden homosexuality, with Misha actually being attracted to Mykola, it causes a bitter split-up between all three. Mykola leaves for the USA where he flies to open space to prove the existence of a dome firmament for a flat-earther billionaire. But he sees for himself that the Earth is actually round, which puts a final end to Mykola's worldview. However, now that Russia invades his homeland, Mykola doesn't care what the shape of the Earth is because it's time to take a stand regardless.

Statement of Intent

When I discovered a group of flat-earthers on social media, I was intrigued. The concept of the firmament covering the flat earth struck me as a powerful metaphor. One user's comment about feeling relieved not to be insignificant in the universe further inspired me. I saw it as a poignant example of how individuals construct their own realities to find comfort and security. Nevertheless, reality eventually intrudes, disrupting their carefully constructed bubble. The film will blend tragedy and comedy to depict the absurdity of this phenomenon. Like my previous work, *Butterfly Vision*, digital elements will play a significant role. This film will offer a visually and narratively authentic portrayal of the struggle to maintain a sense of control and meaning in an unpredictable world.

Synopsis

Mykola, partisan de la théorie de la Terre plate et aspirant *YouTuber*, se voit comme un chercheur de vérité. Il quitte l'Ukraine suite à une crise avec ses meilleurs amis : Misha et sa petite amie Angela, dont Mykola est amoureux. Lorsqu'une expérience ratée en Pologne et un travail dans un club gay berlinois révèlent l'homosexualité de Misha, en réalité attiré par Mykola, cela provoque une rupture finale entre les trois amis. Mykola part alors pour les États-Unis où un milliardaire platiste lui finance un voyage dans l'espace pour prouver l'existence du firmament, le dôme qui recouvre la terre. Là-haut, son monde s'effondre : la Terre est ronde. Mais quand la Russie envahit son pays natal, cela n'a plus d'importance car il est temps de prendre position quoi qu'il en coûte.

Note d'intention

Lorsque j'ai découvert un groupe de platistes sur les réseaux sociaux, leur concept du firmament recouvrant la Terre plate m'est apparu comme une métaphore puissante. L'un de ses membres, qui se disait soulagé de ne pas être insignifiant dans l'univers, m'a inspiré. J'y ai vu un exemple poignant de la façon dont les individus construisent leur propre réalité pour trouver réconfort et sécurité. Néanmoins, la réalité finit toujours par s'imposer, brisant la bulle soigneusement construite. Le film mêlera tragédie et comédie pour dépeindre l'absurdité de ce phénomène. Comme dans mon précédent film *Butterfly Vision*, le numérique jouera un rôle important. Ce film dépeindra de manière authentique la lutte pour maintenir un sentiment de contrôle et de sens dans un monde imprévisible.

